

Message Text

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SUBJECT: DESAI'S US VISIT - WRAP-UP OF MEDIA COVERAGE FOR JUNE 13

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: INDIAN MEDIA, CONTINUING TO PAY PROMINENT
ATTENTION TO PM DESAI'S VISIT TO THE US, COMMENTED ON HIS UN
ADDRESS AND SPECULATED ON THE TARAPUR NUCLEAR RE-SUPPLY ISSUE.
END SUMMARY.

2. TALKS TO INDIAN COMMUNITY: LEADING NEWSPAPERS PROMINENTLY
FRONTPAGED DESAI'S NEW YORK ADDRESS TO THE INDIAN COMMUNITY
UNDER THESE DOUBLE-COLUMN HEADLINES: "PM SEES ROLE FOR US INDIANS
IN RURAL PLAN" (HINDUSTAN TIMES); "PM ASKS RICH INDIANS TO ADOPT
VILLAGES AT HOME " (TRIBUNE, CHANDIGARH); AND "PROSPEROUS
INDIAN IMMIGRANTS SHOULD ADOPT INDIAN VILLAGES: PM" (HINDI
HINDUSTAN, DELHI). ALL WIRE-SERVICE REPORTS AND
CORRESPONDENTS' DISPATCHES MENTIONED THE CLASH OVER LANGUAGE
WHEN FM VAJPAYEE BEGAN SPEAKING HINDI.

3. NUCLEAR ISSUE: HINDUSTAN TIMES EDITOR KARLEKAR, WHO IS
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ACCOMPANYING DESAI, CABLED THAT "THE FAINT HOPE THAT 'TECHNICAL
CLARIFICATIONS' ON THE PROVISION OF THE US NUCLEAR NON-PROLI-
FERATION ACT OF 1978 MIGHT BRING THE POSITIONS OF INDIA AND
THE US CLOSER ON THE NON-PROLIFERATION ISSUE VANISHED WITH
THE DEPARTURE OF DR. H.N. SETHNA, SECRETARY, DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC
ENERGY, FOR INDIA." APPLAUDING DESAI'S "FORTHRIGHT EXPOSITION"
OF INDIA'S STAND ON THE NUCLEAR ISSUE AND NOTING INDO-US

DIFFERENCES ON THIS QUESTION, KARLEKAR CONCLUDED:

"...IT SEEMS FAIRLY CERTAIN THAT WHILE INDIA CAN BE REASONABLY SURE OF GETTING THE (TARAPUR) SHIPMENT CURRENTLY IN BALANCE, IF MAY NOT HOPE TO GET ANY MORE."

4. DISARMAMENT: EDITORIALISTS CONTINUED TO COMMENT ON DESAI'S UN ADDRESS. AMRITA BAZAR PATRIKA (JUNE 12 EDIT, "NOT MUCH TO EXPECT," ON HIS FOUR-POINT PROPOSAL FOR WORLD DISARMAMENT, DECLARED IT WOULD BE "OVER-OPTIMISTIC" TO HOPE THAT THE SUPER POWERS "WOULD AGREE TO REDUCE THEIR NUCLEAR STOCKPILE BY STAGES WITH TOTAL ELIMINATION AS THE ULTIMATE AIM AS HAS BEEN SUGGESTED BY DESAI." OBSERVING THAT NEITHER VIENNA TALKS ON EUROPEAN SECURITY NO SALT-II "HAVE THIS GOAL IN VIEW," THE EDIT SAID "THE HARDENING OF AMERICAN ATTITUDE ON THE SOVIET UNION'S ROLE IN AFRICA HAS CAUSED A SERIOUS SET-BACK TO THESE TALKS..IF THIS BACKGROUND IS TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT, DESAI'S EXHORTATIONS WOULD EVIDENTLY FALL ON DEAF EARS." THE DECCAN HERALD, JUNE 12 OBSERVED, "AN IMPASSIONED PLEA FOR NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT HAS BEEN MADE BY PM DESAI IN HIS ADDRESS AT THE SPECIAL DISARMAMENT SESSION OF THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY.. WHILE NUCLEAR WEAPONS POSE A THREAT TO THE FUTURE OF MANKIND, CONVENTIONAL WEAPONS ARE NO LESS A DANGER TO PEACE. THE IDEAL OF GENERAL DISARMAMENT SHOULD BE PURSUED VIGOROUSLY SO THAT THE MONEY NOW BEING POURED INTO ARMAMENTS COULD BE USED TO ALLEVIATE POVERTY AND BUILD A NEW ECONOMIC ORDER." AND HINDU, JUNE 12 COMMENTS DESAI "HAS SERVED NOTICE ONCE AGAIN TO CARTER AND HIS ADVISERS.. UNCLASSIFIED

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THAT INDIA WILL NOT BUCKLE DOWN MEEKLY TO BIG POWER DEMANDS... DESAI IS ALSO ON SOLID GROUND WHEN SCOFFING AT THE IDLE TALK OF SELECTED NUCLEAR-FREE ZONES IN SOME PARTS OF THE WORLD."

5. OTHER COVERAGE: OTHER SIGNIFICANT NEWS COVERAGE INCLUDED DESAI'S VISIT BLOOMINGDALES, VISIT TO THE DAVE STOCK FARM AND THE "ADMIRATION" FOR PM BY SENATORS MOYNIHAN, KENNEDY AND MCGOVERN, BASED ON A USICA DELHI PRESS RELEASE. PETERSON

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